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REPORT ON THE VOICE OF WOMEN ROUNDTABLE CULTURE OF PEACE

January 1997

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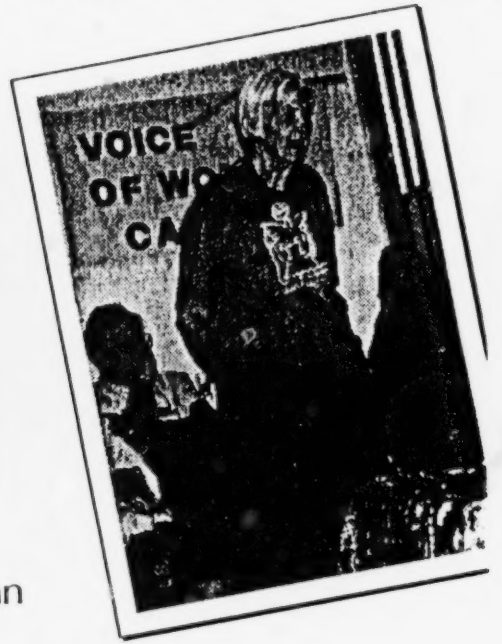

Report on the Voice of Woman Roundtable

Culture of Peace

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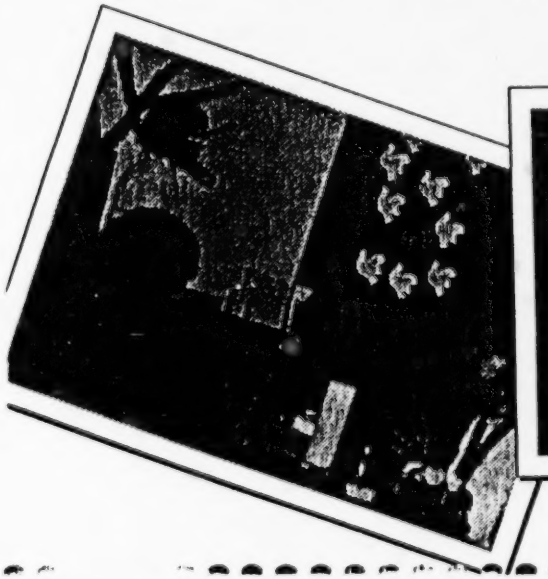

VOICE OF WOMEN
LA VOIX DES FEMMES

About this paper

The text of this paper is based on presentations from a Roundtable on "Building a Culture of Peace" held at Metro Hall, Toronto, Ontario on January 30, 1997.

We wish to acknowledge financial support from Status of Women Canada's Women's Program and the John Holmes Fund of the Canadian Centre for Policy Development for the Roundtable and this report.

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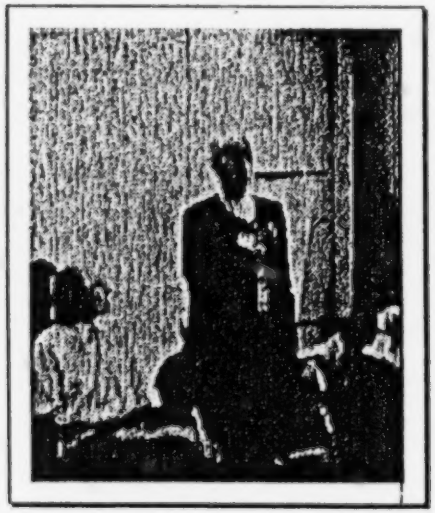


Marion Dewar

Report on the Voice of Women Roundtable on a

Culture of Peace

A Culture of Peace was the theme of a national Roundtable hosted by Canadian Voice of Women for Peace (VOW) on January 30, 1997 in Toronto. Over eighty women and three men, including peace activists, government representatives, educators and students, took part. To our delight, Gertrude Mongella, the Secretary General of the Fourth World Conference on Women, held in Beijing, China in September, 1995, also attended. We invited a diversity of participants in recognition that to wither our deeply rooted global culture of war and violence and to build, instead, a culture of peace and non-violence is a far-reaching endeavor that must include all sectors of society.

The purpose of the event was to increase understanding of particular issues related to women's contribution to a culture of peace. Do women hold different attitudes than men towards peace? How can we mainstream grass roots women's perspectives? Is this a question of democracy? What are the most urgent public policy steps needed? What kinds of public policy could de-legitimize violence? What do we expect of the military? (For the questions in full see Appendix A.) Specifically, the aim was to provide concrete recommendations for improvements in decision-making structures, policies, and programs pertaining to these.

This report of the Roundtable will go to the Canadian government, in particular to Status of Women Canada and the Department of Foreign Affairs, as well as to the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women, UNESCO and other avenues. And, of course, to the participants.

Creating a culture of peace has long been a goal of Canadian Voice of Women for Peace, although we were only recently introduced to this apt and comprehensive way of expressing it. For instance, for more than thirty years, VOW has been making the links between all forms of violence, from state to interpersonal, and stressing the right and the need to make women's voices heard in decision-making at all levels related to peace. The focus of the Roundtable also came from UNESCO's outstanding pioneer work in this field and from the Beijing Platform for Action which newly acknowledged the development of a culture of peace as a global task and one in which women must be engaged.

Though discussion was grouped around the questions outlined above and drawn from the recent United Nations document Education for Peace: Report of the Secretary General (see Appendix A), the scope of the dialogue reflected how wide-ranging the changes needed are if they are to be truly transformative. The insights were largely NOT new but specific areas of concern re-emerged throughout the day and showed clearly that these were considered key to the development of a culture of peace. Our time together was too short to prioritize the many recommendations of the day. Thus, these are simply listed under the three recurring areas of concern, security, peace and culture/education, along with corresponding obligations or commitments made in international agreements by the Canadian government. They are a distillation of the day's discussion, combed from 140 pages of transcript, as well as written comments submitted by participants. Post-Roundtable, we have taken the liberty to impute some suggestions for policy direction and actions but a follow-up Roundtable should pursue this task in greater depth.

As we leave behind the most tyrannical century in human history and embark on a new millennium, we've learned that we cannot simply wait for governments to respond with policy and implementation to the many relevant international commitments and obligations already agreed upon, although this is a legitimate public expectation. It is clear that the way forward requires many approaches, both governmental and civil.

Given recent occurrences in the Canadian military, and the structural and other forms of violence beginning to be addressed in Canada and the rest of the world, we urgently need open and ongoing collaborative discussion on how to build the attitudes and structures inherent in a culture of peace. We hope that this follow-up report to our Roundtable contributes modestly to more public and political awareness, discussions, initiatives, even campaigns. We invite your further feedback, comments and questions (see insert) and we also urge you to refer to the rich lists of NGOs and resources provided in the Appendix to continue making connections with others already involved in bringing our world closer to a true culture of peace.

The Voice of Women Roundtable Committee
May, 1997

Note: Copies of the full transcript of the proceedings are available from VOW at cost ($10 plus postage).

Abbreviations

CEDAW	Convention for the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women
CIDA	Canadian International Development Agency
ECOSOC	UN Economic and Social Council
FLS	Forward Looking Strategies
NATO	North American Treaty Organization
NGO	Non-governmental organization
NORAD	North American Air Defence
PFA	Platform for Action
SWC	Status of Women Canada
UNCED	United Nations Conference on the Environment and Development
UNDP	United Nations Development Program
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
VOW	Canadian Voice of Women for Peace
WILPF	Women's International League for Peace and Freedom

'ey Policy Directions and Actions

1. Security

- Base security on the well-being of all peoples and the environment as opposed to military preparedness. Reflect this in all domestic and foreign policy.

- Support and elaborate non-violent security arrangements such as the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) instead of continuing affiliation with military-based alliances such as NATO and NORAD.

- Host dialogues "Women on the Future of the Canadian Military Institution" with a view to abolishing war as an instrument of policy (refer to Global Women's Peace Petition in Appendix D) and shaping new security policy consistent with a culture of peace.

- Integrate gender perspectives into all security policy-making.

- Systematically, redirect public money from Canada's military towards the implementation of the new kind of security. At minimum, annually for the next five years, reduce military spending by five per cent transferring these funds to social programs, especially those which work to decrease violence and poverty in society and empower women to exercise their human rights. (See Global Women's Peace Petition, Appendix D.)

- Include investment in, for example, civilian-based defense and conflict resolution. Use Legion halls as centres for training in the history and practice of non-violence, including civilian-based defense.

- Deepen Canada's commitment to national military economic conversion (Conference on Disarmament and Development, 1987, Article 35 c. [vi]). For example, convert Canadian Forces Bases Moosejaw and Cold Lake to

non-military, job-producing use rather than courting NATO countries to use these bases for military flight training; immediately stop military and related trade exhibitions such as SUBCON; cease federal subsidies to companies and businesses involved in the arms trade; cut off Canadian weapons exports including "third party" or "dual purpose" sales.

- Increase public funding to non-governmental organizations that work locally, nationally, or internationally against violence in all its forms such as war, poverty, domestic violence and the violence of the prison system. (See Appendix E for a list of some relevant non-governmental organizations.)

- Develop public programs, training, campaigns and NGO-governmental dialogues to increase understanding of a culture of peace, for example, the connection between all forms and all levels of violence, non-violent conflict settlement, etc. Include the public, government officials and all military and police forces.

2. Policy

- Begin to implement all existing international obligations and commitments. Introduce legislation needed to make this happen within a time-bound framework. Reach by the Year 2000 implementation of the Nairobi Forward Looking Strategies.

- Accelerate the introduction and development of more feminist (gender-sensitive), ethnically diverse women into decision-making at all levels. Regularly strategize with women's groups about appropriate means.

- Share equally decision-making positions, reaching, by the Year 2000, gender balance in all governmental bodies, elected and appointed positions, including in the United Nations.

- Restore and sustain adequate funding of women's advocacy groups, shelters, independent programs, research.

- Introduce the necessary political and economic policy changes to overtly

- Introduce the necessary political and economic policy changes to overtly value women, children and all marginalized groups.

- This includes implementing national child care, measuring all unpaid, care giving work, evaluating all governmental policies for their impact on the well-being of women, children, the poor, the elderly, etc.

- Curtail policies of harmful economic globalization. For example, end structural adjustment programs and adopt alternative, benign indicators of "progress." Help ensure that Canadian and international corporations adhere to global (UN based) standards of practice.

Dorothy Goldin Rosenberg, Marion Dewar & Shirley Farlinger

3. Culture/Education

- Support the universality of peace-education, in Canada and elsewhere. Request that our public school system incorporate early peace education trainings, including non-violent conflict resolution and reconciliation.

- Educate men and boys within the family and schools to be care givers and to be non-patriarchal.

- Make research on peace a priority theme in Status of Women Canada, in academia and elsewhere for the next ten years.
  i) Research male roles and masculinity models in the perspectives of a culture of peace.
  ii) Systematically collect and disseminate stories of grassroots women's work for peace.

- Promote the culture of peace as a separate agenda item in the women and peace issue deliberations (1998, United Nations Commission on the Status of Women).

Summary of Points Raised

The following are the major themes and strategies which emerged through the day's discussion and through written input by participants.

1. Major Security Themes and Strategies

Minister of Foreign Affairs Lloyd Axworthy has talked about redefining security. We need to question who defines it and how.

Peace is the elimination of the structural and attitudinal roots of violence.

- Carry out research on human security and redefine it to include the following: 1) sustain life on the planet; 2) meeting basic needs for life; 3) respecting human dignity and human rights; 4) protecting people from avoidable harm and taking care of those affected when harm occurs. The 1994 United Nations and Development Program (UNDP) report also defined security as including economic security, food security, environmental security, personal security, community security and political security. We need to change current policy to reflect these priorities.

- We not only need a new definition of security, the challenge is to create policy ideas and activities with input from citizens to give meaning to it. Also, these need to be institutionalized so they don't simply remain in speeches and documents.

(FLS, par. 251-2: "There exists a relationship between the world economic situation, development and the strengthening of international peace and security, disarmament and the relaxation of international tension.")

We need to rechannel resources from the military to areas that will promote and sustain a culture of peace.

We need to substantially reform or abolish the military and replace it with alternatives that use conflict resolution, peace keeping and civilian-based defence.

- Transform the Canadian military; carry out functions such as rescue and peacekeeping under civilian authority. Alternatively, convert the military to a true peace keeping force, do feminist-oriented training in nonviolent techniques such as negotiation and conflict resolution that include both men and women.
- Mobilize civilian-based defense; change mandate of Legion Halls to centres for civilian based defense independent of the Armed Forces; redirect resources given to Legion halls for this purpose.
- Stop all research on war; put part of the military budget towards education for peace; use resources directed towards the military for education, housing, health care, environmental protection, etc. Implement a progressive tax system to redistribute wealth, to ensure that basics such as food and shelter are accessible to the poor; also promote and legalize the peace tax to divert taxes going to war towards peace and social programs (health, education, etc.).
- Expose the financial, social and environmental costs of the military, including the subsidizing of military exports. Also introduce "human security impact assessment" of military alliances, military goods exports and military training. Oppose Canadian military exports and reject the authorizing of "dual purpose" exports; implement policy against the arms trade. Promote sustainable military economic conversion.
- Personalize the war machine and the consequences of militarism and war as opposed to glorifying war; be aware of how we benefit. Although women and men have a different relationship with war (men are the winners of war, women the victims; men own property, women are themselves property; armies are men's "buddies" but women's sons) some women also tolerate and benefit from war.
- Campaign against land mines; expose the maiming they cause daily.
- Reject the aim of "equality" for women within the military.

(FLS par. 250, 254, 255; PFA par. 144. Also PFA Strategic Objectives on Peace, E 2: "Reduce excessive military expenditures and control the availability of armaments" and E 1, 3-6)

Governments, educators and policy makers in all spheres must recognize that the violence of war, the structural violence of poverty and injustice, violence against the earth and interpersonal and domestic violence are inseparable; none can be completely eradicated while the others exist.

- Introduce/expand government funding for grassroots anti-violence work such as women's centres, rape crisis centres and shelters for battered women.
- Educate judges, doctors and physicians about women's issues and abuse concerns.
- Support and recognize groups such as the White Ribbon Campaign and get their ideas implemented at the policy level.
- Support work being done in prisons to counteract a culture of violence.
- Legislate against war toys and other toys and games that promote violence as heroic act. Cooperative games and toys are important in building peace.
- Enforce strict gun control legislation.
- Work to de-legitimize male violence; create an attitude in our society abhorring acts of violence; investigate the causes of some adults wanting to have sex with children; question the message given by low penalties now imposed for acts of violence, as opposed to, for example, crimes against property.
- Impose fines on organizations that support violence as a means of interaction or profit (corporations or social organizations).
- Eliminate violence from all forms of sport; introduce and encourage cooperative aspects.
- Promote the use of non-violent images in music videos.

(Federal Plan for Gender Equality, Major Objective no. 4: "Reduce violence in society, particularly violence against women and children...within the overall context of federal efforts to reduce violence in our society generally"; FLS par. 258, PFA par. 79, 124, 125, 143. Also PFA Strategic Objectives D 1-3)

2. Major Policy Themes and Strategies

Everything needed to create a culture of peace is in existing documents agreed to by the world's governments, including Canada's. The problem is getting governments at all levels to carry out these commitments.

Policy alone is not enough. Political will and citizen participation are also essential to the implementation of a culture of peace.

Women's equality internationally, in politics, in the workplace and in the family is a prerequisite for democracy and peace.

Systems of oppression, the structures that create power relationships around race, ability, sexuality, etc., as well as gender, need to be changed. We can't just "add women and stir."

- Call for a UN General Assembly Resolution for Oct. 24, 1997 demanding that states fulfill all international obligations.
- Enact the necessary legislation to ensure compliance with international obligations. The Canadian government is already "verbally" committed to a culture of peace, but political will is necessary if change is to occur; we need to hold governments accountable to actually do what they said they would. Parliament must consolidate action and strategies, ensuring officials and policy makers know the documents, including the Convention for the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), the Nairobi Forward Looking Strategies (FLS) and PFA, and will implement them.
- SWC must develop tools to create an "institutional memory" regarding previously made legal obligations and commitments related to women's role in advancing a culture of peace, violence against women and women in power and decision-making. Liaison mechanisms with NGOs must be strengthened, as well as mechanisms to implement the Beijing PFA. The government must fund research on Canada's constitutional obligations to women regarding policy

- development related to issues such as violence against women and women in power and decision-making.The concept and utility of a culture of peace must be studied at both federal and provincial levels among Status of Women officials to understand a) that it is the opposite of a culture of violence; b) that we currently live in a culture of violence, that expresses itself in both public and private spheres and interpersonal and political spheres; c) that violence against women is a manifestation of a culture of violence; d) that steps to build a culture of peace will help transform attitudes and structures which promote violence against women; and e) that war is not an acceptable instrument of foreign policy.
- We must undertake a social audit much like a financial audit, i.e. how do policies, programs or legislation affect children, women and communities, before making massive restructuring changes. The lesson of Norway is that a different value system is needed and that goals must be specific: it's not enough just to get more women in our present political systems. Our priorities and the way we "value" things needs to change; the whole system needs to change. In the meantime, we must integrate women into decision-making at elected and bureaucratic levels - get more women into the system.
- Create a political feminist organization with a clear platform and feminist policy.

Speakers (L to R) Len Desroches, Jean Hewitt, Gertrude Mongella, Joan Russow, Hanna Newcombe

- Women's participation has to be framed by a strategy (e.g. media education, education for peace, children). We also need indicators to check if there is any change in women's participation and measure trends over time.
- Restore post of Minister Responsible for the Status of Women; substantially increase budget of SWC.
- The majority of people in the world are poor women of colour from poor countries. We need to change existing structures to empower them and share their knowledge and wisdom.
- Implement a national child care policy. Ensure that cooperative behavior is the norm for all daycare programs.
- All national policy must support the Convention on the Rights of the Child. For example, child prostitution exists

here, not just in poor countries. For all legislation use the criteria: how does this affect children?

- Those in power must not put power over principles. Reintroduce the idea of "service" for politicians.
- Citizens are also accountable to each other and to governments we elect; we must insert ourselves into the "mechanisms of criticism" and into policy making.
- We must define democratization (besides including women), i.e. how and where democracy happens.
- Process is important as well as policy.
- Abolish the head tax for immigrants.
- Stop CANDU sales and the proposed burning of plutonium (mixed-oxide fuel) in Canadian nuclear reactors as well as the proposed nuclear waste disposal concept.

(Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, Sections 15 and 28; Federal Plan for Gender Equality, Major Objectives no. 5-7, par. 407, 409: "Incorporate women's perspectives in governance [to achieve] equal access to all levels of decision making"; FLS par. 51, 53, 63-6, 79, 248, 253; PFA Strategic Objectives G [Decision-making], H [Mechanisms for Advancement] and I [Human Rights])

Economic globalization and many international trade agreements are the opposite of a culture of peace. We need to apply international principles and standards on human rights and the environment, that are reflected in UN documents, to trade agreements as well.

The very lucrative arms trade is carried out by big business condoned and supported by government; wars start because arms dealers want to make money and politicians want to expand power.

We need to recognize that power doesn't rest primarily with governments any more and identify where real power lies.

- Challenge economic globalization. There is a new form of colonization through economic systems and organizations such as the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Trade Organization (WTO) and international property rights. Corporations must adhere to independently monitored codes of

conduct. The UN must "enforce" mandatory international normative standards for business and industry. Governments must also ensure that corporations, including transnationals, comply with all national codes and international law, including environmental law; development and trade policy must consider the effects on people, land and resources. Cultural relativism should not be used as a reason for non-cooperation with international law.

- Promote the Tobin Tax.
- Develop alternatives to globalization and structural adjustment based on sustaining and building local communities. Implement WILPF's alternative budget, and challenge restructuring which uses debt and deficits as excuses.
- We must cancel the debt of economically developing countries and expand credit opportunities for poor women, including poor women in Canada.
- Openly identify the link between peace and development and famine and war: recent wars in Africa brought famine because government budgets were directed to arms instead of food and flight for safety kept people from planting and harvesting crops.
- We must learn who the "365" (i.e. the 365 people who, according to one study, rule the world) are, and learn the language of economics so that we can access and speak to them. The government must require accountability from big business and transnationals. In Canada, we must name and expose the non-elected individuals who form or influence government politics. At the same time, we must change our economic system to one that recognizes women's unpaid work and can incorporate non-monetary values such as clean air and water. Use indicators such as how many people are homeless and un- or under-employed rather than GNP.
- We must question the idea of consumerism. We must refuse to buy goods produced in conditions of slavery, e.g. by child or sweat shop labour, and support locally-grown food, local industry, cooperatives, "fair trade" (e.g. Bridgehead) and barter systems. Within the present system, we must practice ethical investing.
- We must recognize that "big business" is often military producers and boycott

these. We need to expose the "military machine" (i.e. arms dealers) who create or escalate existing conflicts to make sales.

(PFA Strategic Objectives, A [Poverty] and F [Economy]: "Review, adopt and maintain macroeconomics policies and development strategies that address the needs and efforts of women in poverty")

3. Major Themes and Strategies on Education and Culture

There has been a significant change over the last 20 years in education policy regarding violence - we must build on this trend.

Intrusive and controlling programs implemented to decrease violence in schools using methods like surveillance, frisking and metal detectors have been found to result in increased violence.

Anti-violence measures must be linked with other social issues such as racism and homophobia.

- We must research how to rewrite the school curriculum to promote humane values, peaceful attitudes, equality and respect. We must do research on: 1) the links between sexism, inequality, violence and militarism; 2) teaching children to be cooperative, use win-win problem solving, develop listening skills; value community and be caring and compassionate; and 3) how to train and socialize boys and men to be caregivers.
- Teach Healthy Relationships (grades 7-9) and personal safety in schools.
- We must bring the idea of commitment and responsibility to both the global and local community into education, as opposed to individualism, self-fulfillment and competition.
- Advocate principle-based education, with principles relating to human rights, peace and environmental protection which will not depend on the politics of the party in power.
- Improve work on non-discrimination in education regarding women, minorities and indigenous peoples (recommended by the 28th Conference of UNESCO).
- The Canadian school curriculum must dramatically increase its education about

the world: other peoples, countries, cultures, etc.

- Canada should take a lead in pressing all UN member states to integrate the UNESCO prepared curriculum into their schools.
- Ensure the Council of Ministers of Education promotes mandatory conflict resolvers in schools; include peaceful living and conflict resolution in the curriculum. We must give children the tools to reach non-violent solutions. While most violence is perpetrated by men, women also have the capacity to be violent and the need to exercise power and control (though usually it is expressed differently, and less destructively, than by men); girls don't have a monopoly on "feminine" skills such as cooperation and caring.
- Refuse surveillance and other such methods as a solution to school violence and recognize vested interested of some individuals in issues of violence, e.g. companies that sell security systems.
- Recognize the links between violence and racism and between violence and the inability to read, as well as between poverty and violence, gangs and youth anger.
- Make research on peace a priority theme in academia and elsewhere for at least the next ten years.
- Build on gains already made in ending school violence, bullying, corporal punishment, racism and homophobia, and expand this to the larger society.
- Implement the Peace Garden project of tree-planting programs in schools (see Appendix E).

(PFA par. 125: "Organize and fund information campaigns and educational and training programs in order to sensitize girls and boys and women and men to the personal and social detrimental effects of violence in the family, community and society; teach them how to communicate without violence." PFA Strategic Objectives B [Education])

To break the cycle of violence we need to address the socialization of children.

Men and boys must be educated to be nurturers and caregivers and these roles must be more valued by our society.

- Society must take more collective responsibility for education.

- Society must become more child friendly; communities must take responsibility for children ("It takes a village to raise a child").
- Society must value child care and raising families as well as "feminine" attributes such as nurturing and cooperation. For example, peacekeeping should be done by women and men who have raised children. Make parenting courses obligatory in high school. Women and men have a different psychology because of social roles; this can be changed by involving men in parenting.
- Men need to develop skills domestically (home, children) and in general these skills must be recognized as essential, life-giving work.
- Increase family and single parent support centres to defuse family violence before it can begin. To break the cycle of violence we need to address the socialization of children. On a policy level, we need to create awareness about the possibility of a culture of peace beginning in the home and at the earliest stages of education.
- Change must begin at the very basic micro unit, the household; economic/political structures must reflect micro level.
- Recognize that many perpetrators of violence today were once themselves victims and society has a responsibility towards these people. To grow up to behave nonviolently children must feel safe in their homes.
- Educate children to have high self-esteem; recognize that girls' self-image decreases post-puberty compared to boys and that a low self-image makes people more likely to be victims.
- Male violence in young men is best challenged by other males.

(FLS par. 257: "The questions of women and peace and the meaning of peace for women cannot be separated from the broader question of relationships between women and men in all spheres of life and in the family"; PFA par. 125, 130 and PFA Strategic Objectives L [The Girl Child])

Not all inequality is along gender lines; some women can have power over other women and men because of race, class, sexual orientation, etc.

Western women need to be open to learning from the wisdom of women from other cultures and aboriginal women. They need our support, not our leadership.

- Work where you are from a vision.
- We need to have hope. Change takes time and progress has already been made: peace is now on the global agenda.
- Women must read and publicize CEDAW, FLS and PFA. Know what governments have agreed to; hound policy makers for accountability and keeping promises; call on governments to enact legislation necessary to ensure compliance with what they've agreed to and determine what constitutes compliance. Be strategic; be specific. Write to Ministers, Boards of Education, etc.
- We must work with young women; support feminist women.
- We must work and cooperate with other peace groups, build alliances, have shared goals and share knowledge and expert information. We must cooperate with academics in women's studies and the grass roots to develop tools to educate ourselves and to analyze the new economic order and the new distribution of power.
- It is not "us" versus "them" or men versus women; we must address patriarchy as an oppressive system for both women and men.
- NGOs must work directly against the arms trade and militarism.
- We need to reevaluate the role of civil society: people like Helen Caldicott influence history as much as political leaders.
- We must recognize the importance of grassroots work and oppose government cuts to the work of grassroots groups such as shelters.
- Write briefs, study, work for peace.
- Join the Raging Grannies.
- Sign the women's peace petition presented to the 50th Anniversary of the UN Commission on the Status of Women initially in March, 1997 (see Appendix C).

Take Action. "Transforming to a Culture of Peace," no. 1-41: "Support peace education in schools; look for programs in your community which help adults find alternatives to violence; start a campaign in your community against war toys; work to end violence in the media," etc.)

We need to create exciting, inspiring narratives about peace to replace those about war and violence that now capture people's imagination.

Root a culture of peace in cultures that already exist.

- Support cultural events that help us to appreciate cultural diversity.
- We must collect stories and evidence in support of nonviolence, particularly strategies undertaken by grassroots women and make recommendations to enable their systematic and ongoing gathering, dissemination and study in order to educate others about the true meaning and the history of nonviolence, and the possibilities it offers for fundamental societal change.
- The basic aspects of a culture of peace are already in existing cultures, such as aboriginal cultures. We need to go back to these/our roots.
- Recognize women's shared "underground" culture.
- Recognize the importance of spirituality.
- Challenge and rewrite religious texts, doctrines and hierarchy which promote the oppression of women and the myths which speak of justified violence against women.
- Monitor the media, and push it to reconsider the images presented of women; challenge the role of the media regarding portrayals of violence against women and violence in general, including positive images legitimizing the military.
- Young people don't know about or want to discuss political issues because of popular culture. They need to have equal exposure to a different (peace) perspective.
- Change our language: use "we" and "our" instead of "me" and "mine" - put things in the context of a global village and the human family. Also, recognize that ideas about "family" are culturally specific.

(FLS par. 256: "Women of the world, together with men, should, as informal educators and socialization agents, play a special role in the process of bringing up younger generations in an atmosphere of compassion, tolerance, mutual concern and trust, with an awareness that all people belong to the same world community. Such education should be part of all formal and informal educational processes as well as of communications, information and mass-media systems"; PFA par. 125, 146; PFA Strategic Objectives J [The Media])

APPENDIX

A) Questions for discussion

1. What are the main differences between women's and men's attitudes to peace, security, peacemaking and conflict resolution which, if taken advantage of, might help to create a more peaceful environment, and what further research is needed?

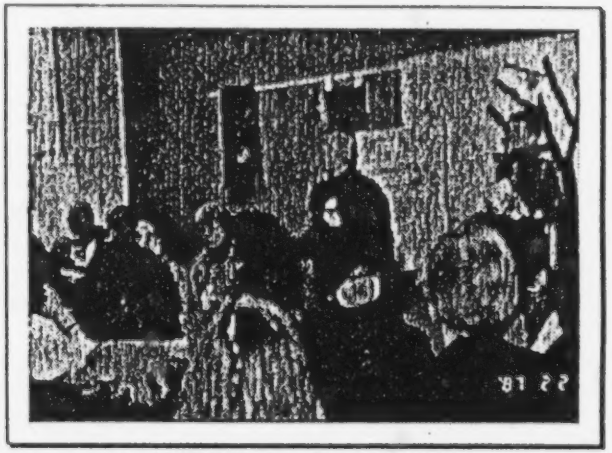
Speakers: Berit Aas, Barbara Roberts

2. What policy measures should be undertaken to ensure the integration of women's perspectives into all mainstream national and international peace and security activities, building on cases of women's local initiatives for peace and the conflict resolution techniques applied at the grass-roots level?

Speakers: Anne Adelson, Cheshmak Farhoumand, Deborah Stienstra

3. To what extent is the success of democratization dependent on full and equal participation of women in all spheres of life, including peace and security matters, and what steps and policy measures are to be taken to involve women immediately and on an equal basis with men in the democracy-building processes at the national and international levels?

Speakers: Elisabeth Barot, Louise Bergeron de Villiers, Greta Hofmann Nemiroff, Steven Lee



Snezana Vitorovich & Bruna Nota moderator

4. What issues related to transforming the existing culture of violence to a culture of peace would need to be addressed through public policy as a matter of highest priority, especially in terms of publicly provided or regulated services like education?

Speakers: Joan Russow, Hanna Newcombe, Len Desroches, Jean Hewitt

5. a) What kinds of public policy could de-legitimize violence, in particular against women [and girls], and encourage effective measures against it at the national and international levels?

Speakers: Marcella Laaper, Bev LeFrancois, Ian Russel

b) In particular, what measures could de-legitimize state military violence against women [and girls] beyond guidelines elaborated and adopted at the international level to assist governments and intergovernmental organizations in the preparation of gender-sensitive codes of conduct for their national and international armed forces?

Taken from Education for Peace: Report of the Secretary General (E/CN.6/1996/6, 10 Jan. 1996), distributed at the fortieth session of the Commission on the Status of Women, March 1996.

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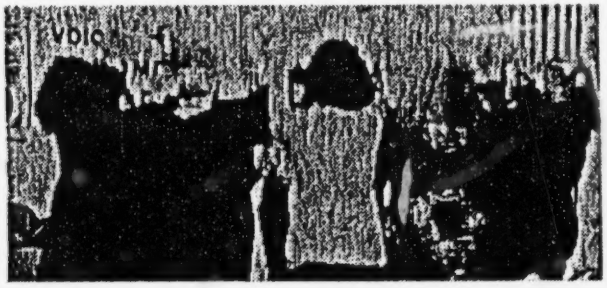

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Initiative to mark the 50th anniversary
of the first session of the Commission on the Status of Women

Petition from Women of the World to the Governments of the World
to be presented at the opening day of the 52nd session of the UN General Assembly
and publicized on International Women's Day 1997

We are horrified at the levels of violence witnessed during this century and that women and children are the primary victims of war and poverty. On behalf of society at large, we, the undersigned women of the world, demand that annually, for the next five years, at least five per cent of national military expenditures be redirected to health, education and employment programmes. By doing so, one half billion dollars a day would be released worldwide for programmes to improve living standards.

We also demand that war, like slavery, colonialism and apartheid, be delegitimized as an acceptable form of social behaviour, and that governments and civil society together develop new institutions that do not resort to violence for the settlement of disputes.

Together we commit ourselves, as half of the world's population, to use our power to ensure that these demands, which will promote international peace and security, are met through legislation and action. We resolve that we will inaugurate a new century that rejects warfare and promotes well-being, justice and human rights.

	Signature	Printed Name	Mailing Address	Country
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P.T.O.

to Governments of the World

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Please sign and fax or mail to:
WCC - 9D
777 United Nations Plaza
NYC, NY 10017 (USA)
FAX (1-212) 867-7462 or 682-0886
E-mail: wccia@igc.org or paintl@igc.apc.org

Return signed petitions no later than 30 August 1997 for presentation to the UN General Assembly

Petition Co-sponsors

Arab Lawyers Union (Egypt), Asian Women's Human Rights Council (Philippines), Association de Solidarite des Femmes Rwandaises (Rwanda), Association of Women of the Mediterranean Region (Cyprus), Barnard-Boecker Centre Foundation (Canada), BATIS Center for Women (Philippines), Body Shop International (UK), CADEF (Mali), Canadian Research Institute for the Advancement of Women in Nova Scotia, Canadian Voice of Women for Peace, Catholics for a Free Choice (USA), Catholic Institute of Education (South Africa), CCIA of World Council of Churches (Switzerland), Change (UK), Centro de Investigacion Social, Formacion y Estudios de la Mujer-CISFEM (Venezuela), CND CYMRU (Wales), Collectif Pro-Femmes/Twese Hamwe (Rwanda), CONG de Mujeres (Venezuela), Coordination of Women's Advocacy (Switzerland), Development Action for Women Network (Philippines), Enda Inter-Arabe environnement & developpement du monde arabe (Tunisia), Fundacion Servicio, Paz y Justicia (Argentina),Grandmothers for Peace International (USA), Initiatives des Femmes Africaines de France et d'Europe (France), International Association for Women's Rights and Solidarity with Iranian Women (France), International Peace Bureau (Switzerland), International Solidarity Network of Women Living Under Muslim Laws (France), International Women's Tribune Centre (USA), ISIS - Women's International Cross-Cultural Exchange (Uganda), Israel Women's Network (Israel), Kyadondo Young Single Mothers' Group (Uganda), LILA Pilipina (Philippines), Ministry of Gender and Children's Affairs (Sierra Leone), Mira Senteret (Norway), National Clearinghouse on Marital and Date Rape (USA), Nova Scotia Voice of Women for Peace (Canada), Peace Action (USA), Quilombo-Centro Ecumenico Feminino da Diaspora Negra (Brazil), Quixote Center (USA), SAFTINET/Domestic Violence Center (New Zealand), Sisters of Loretto (USA), Society of the Sacred Heart (Australia-New Zealand, Canada, and Uganda-Kenya Provinces), Sociologists for Women in Society (USA), Stichting Vrouwenhuis (Netherlands), Swiss Peace Foundation, Taller Salud (Puerto Rico), 31st December Women's Movement (Ghana), Trickle Up Program (USA), Union de Mujeres Negras (Venezuela), WAND (Women's Action for New Directions, USA), WEDO (Women's Environment and Development Organization, USA), Women Cell-Humanity Association (India), Women of Faith Net Worker Society (Canada), Women's Human Rights Group (Croatia), Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (Australia) (Aotearoa/New Zealand) Women for Peace International Department

D) Bibliography

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*Available from the Voice of Women Office, 736 Bathurst St., Toronto, ON, M6E 3H4, (416) 537-9343, fax (416) 531-6214, e-mail bruna@web.net . UNESCO and a Culture of Peace can also be ordered from The Director, Culture of Peace Programme, UNESCO, 7, place de Fontenoy, 75352 Paris 07 SP, France.

Note: for a more comprehensive list of resources on the PFA, CEDAW and related UN and Canadian government documents, contact Barbara Roberts (see Appendix B for address etc.). Available on-line from barbara@cs.athabascau.ca

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Low Income Families Together (LIFT)
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Peace and disarmament

Abolition 2000-Canadian Network to Abolish Nuclear Weapons
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Coalition to Oppose the Arms Trade (COAT)
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Tel: (613) 231-3076/fax: (613) 231-2614
/e-mail: ad207@freenet.carleton.ca

Conscience Canada
Box 8601, Victoria Central PO, Victoria, BC, V8W 3S2
Tel: (250) 384-5532/fax: (250) 382-8378
/e-mail: peacetax@islandnet.com

End the Arms Race
232-2182 West, 12th Flr, Vancouver, BC, V6K 2N4
Tel: (604) 687-3223/fax: (604) 687-3277

Nanoose Conversion Campaign (NCC)
#2-85 Commercial St., Nanaimo, BC, V9R 5G3
Tel/fax: (604) 741-1662

Peace Brigades International - Canada
192 Spadina Ave., #304, Toronto, ON, M5T 2C2
Tel: (416) 504-4429/fax: (416)504-4430
/e-mail: pbi@web.net

Peace Magazine
736 Bathurst St., Toronto, ON, M5S 2R4
Tel: (416) 533-77581/fax: (416) 531-6214
/e-mail: mspencer@web.net

Peace Research Institute - Dundas
25 Dundana Ave., Dundas, ON, L9H 4E5
Tel: (905) 628-2356

Physicians for Global Survival
170A Booth St., Ottawa, ON, K1R 7J4
Tel: (613) 233-1982/fax: (613) 233-9028

Project Ploughshares
Conrad Grebel College, University of Waterloo, Waterloo, ON, N2L 3G6
Tel: (519) 888-6541/fax: (519) 885-0806
/e-mail: plough@watserv1.uwaterloo.ca

Science for Peace
University College, U of T, 15 King's College Circle, Toronto, ON, M5S 3H7
Tel/fax: (416) 978-3606/e-mail: sfp@physics.utoronto.ca

Veterans Against Nuclear Arms - Toronto Chapter
Box 53012, 10 Royal Orchard Blvd., Thornhill, ON, L3T 7R9
Tel: (905) 707-0398

World Federalists of Canada
145 Spruce St., Suite 207, Ottawa, ON, K1R 6P1
Tel: (613) 232-0647/fax: (613) 563-0017

Women

Canadian Coalition for "Comfort Women" Redress
c/o NAJC, 382 Harbord St., Toronto, ON, M6G 1H9
Tel: (416) 516-1375

Canadian Research Institute for the Adavancement of Women
151 Slater St., Suite 408, Ottawa, ON, K1P 5H3
Tel: (613) 563-0681/fax: (613) 563-0682
/e-mail: criaw@worldlink.ca

Canadian Voice of Women for Peace
736 Bathurst St., Toronto, ON, M5S 2R4
Tel: (416) 537-9343/fax: (416) 531-6214
/e-mail: bruna@web.net

Centre for Women's Studies in Education
OISE, 252 Bloor St. W., 11th Floor, Toronto, ON, M5S 1V6
Tel: (416) 923-6641/fax: (416) 926-4725

Congress of Black Women - Toronto Chapter
560 Jarvis St., Toronto, ON, M4Y 2J4
Tel: (416) 961-2427

Feminist International Radio Endeavour (FIRE)
Apdo 88, Santa Ana, Costa Rica
Tel: 50/6/249-1821/fax: 50/6/249-1095

International Women's Tribune Centre
(IWTC)
777 UN Plaza, New York, NY, 10017, USA
Tel: (212) 687-8633/fax: (212) 661-2704
/e-mail: iwtc@igc.apc.org
Contact: Anne Walker, Executive Director

MATCH International Centre
200 Elgin St., Suite 1102, Ottawa, ON,
K2P 1L5
Tel: (613) 238-1312/fax: (613) 238-6867

Media Watch
517 Wellington St. W., Ste. 204, Toronto, ON,
M5V 1G1
Tel: (416) 408-2065/fax: (416) 408-2069
/e-mail: mediawatch@myna.com

National Action Committee on the Status of
Women (NAC)
203-234 Eglinton Ave. E., Toronto, ON,
M4P 1K5
Tel: (416) 932-1718/fax: (416) 932-0646
/e-mail: nac@web.net

National Organization of Immigrant and
Visible Minority Women
251 Bank St., Suite 506, Ottawa, ON,
K2P 1X3
Tel: (613) 232-0689/fax: (613) 232-0988

Status of Women Canada
Suite 700, 360 Albert St., Ottawa, ON,
K1A 1C3
Tel: (613) 995-7835/fax: (613) 943-2386
/e-mail: vilas@swc-cfc.gc.ca

WEED Foundation
736 Bathurst St., Toronto, ON, M5S 2R4
Tel: 516-2379/fax: 531-6214

Women's International League for Peace and
Freedom
1 rue de Varembe, 1211 Geneva 20,
Switzerland
Tel: (41) (22) 733 6175/fax: (41) (22) 740
1063/e-mail: womensleague@gn.apc.org

First Nations

Aboriginal Rights Coalition (ARC)/*Solidarite*
153 Laurier Ave. E., Ottawa, ON, K1N 6N8
Tel: (613) 235-9956/fax: (613) 235-1302

Anduhyaun (Native women's shelter &
support centre)
106 Spadina Rd., Toronto, ON, M5R 2T8
Tel: (416) 920-1492

Canadian Alliance in Solidarity with Native
Peoples (CASNP)
39 Spadina Road, Toronto, ON, M5R 2S9
Tel: (416) 972-1573/fax: (416) 972-6232
/e-mail: casnp@pathcom.com

Cultural Survival Canada
1 Nicholas St. #420, Ottawa, ON, K1N 7B7
Tel: (613) 233-4653/fax: (613) 233-2292

Friends of the Lubicon
485 Ridelle Ave., Toronto, ON, M5B 1K6
Tel: (416) 783-4694

International Campaign for Innu and the Earth
c/o Oakville Community Centre, 148 Kerr St., Oakville, ON, L6K 3A7
Tel/fax: (905) 849-5501/e-mail: occpehr@web.net

Inuit Circumpolar Conference
170 Laurier Ave. W., #544, Ottawa, ON, K1P 5V5
Tel: (613) 563-2642/fax: (613) 565-3089

Native Women's Resource Centre
191 Gerrard St. E., Toronto, ON, M5A 2E5
Tel: (416) 963-9963

Human Rights

Amnesty International
440 Bloor St. W., Toronto, ON, M5S 1X5
Tel: (416) 929-9477/fax: (416) 929-0539

International Centre for Human Rights and Democratic Development
63, rue de Bresoles, Montreal (Quebec), H2Y 1V7
Tel: (514) 283-6073/fax: (514) 283-3791

Violence

Canadians Concerned about Violence in Entertainment
c/o Rose Dyson, 167 Glen Rd., Toronto, ON, M4W 2W8

Metro Action Committee on Public Violence Against Women and Children (METRAC)
158 Spadina Rd., Toronto, ON, M5R 2T8
Tel: (416) 392-3135/fax: (416) 392-3136
/e-mail: metrac@interlog.com
internet address: www.interlog.com/metrac

White Ribbon Campaign
Suite 214, Galleria Offices, 220 Yonge St., Toronto, ON, M5B 2H1
Tel: (416) 596-1513/fax: (416) 596-8359

Education

International Council for Adult Education
720 Bathurst St., Toronto, ON, M5S 2R4
Tel: (416) 588-1211/fax: (416) 588-5725
/e-mail: icae@web.net

International School Peace Gardens
c/o Ontario Parks Association
1185 Eglinton Ave. E., Suite 404, North York, ON, M3C 3C6
Tel: (416) 426-7157/fax: (416) 426-7366
/e-mail: opa@hookup.net

United Nations

Canadian Commission for UNESCO
350 Albert, Box 1047, Ottawa, ON, K1P 5V8
Tel: (613) 566-4414, ext. 5567/fax: (613) 566-4405
Contact: Elisabeth Barot, Programme Officer, Human Rights, Social Sciences Status of Women and Youth
Culture of Peace Programme
UNESCO, 7 Place de Fontenoy, 75007, Paris, France
Tel: 33-1-45681212/fax: 33-1-45685557
Contact: Ms. Ingeborg Breines, Director, Women and the Culture of Peace

Department of Public Information
United Nations, New York, NY, 10017, USA
Tel: (212) 963-6921/fax: (212) 963-4556

NGO Committee on Disarmament
777 UN Plaza, New York, NY, 10017, USA
Tel: (212) 687-5340/fax: (212) 687-1643
/e-mail: disartimes@igc.apc.org

UN Dept. of Disarmament Affairs
United Nations, New York, NY, 10017, USA
Tel: (212) 963-6033/fax: (212)

UN Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM)
304 East 45th St., New York, NY, 10017, USA
Tel: (212) 906-6400/fax: (212) 906-6705

UN Division for the Advancement of Women (DAW)
2 UN Plaza, 12th Floor, New York, NY, 10017, USA
Tel: (212) 963-3162/fax: (212) 963-3463

UN Headquarters
New York, NY, 10017
Tel: (212) 963-1234

United Nations Association
2 College St., #116, Toronto, ON, M5G 1K3
Tel: (416) 929-0990/fax: (416) 929-0999

UN web sites:

The UN Home page: http://www.un.org
The UN Dept. of Disarmament Affairs: http://www.un.org/Depts/dpa/docs/cdahome.htm
"Disarmament Links": http://www.igc.apc.org/disarm/

Other useful web sites

Advisory Opinion of the ICJ on nuclear weapons:
http://www.inter.nl.net/hcc/A.Malten
The Canberra Commission Report:
http//www.dfat.gov.au/dfat/cc/cchome.html
Pugwash Conferences on Science & World Affairs:
http://www.qmw.ac.uk/pugwash/pugwash/home.html
International Campaign to Ban Landmines:
http://www.vvaf.org/landmineBulletin of the Atomic Scientists:
http://neog.com/atomicCenter for Defense Information: http://www.cdi.orgAll documents relating to the advancement of women (both UN and NGO): www.un.org/dpcsd/daw

Let's hear your views! Let's hear your views!

READER QUESTIONNAIRE

Please indicate YOUR suggestion(s) concerning KEY policy direction(s) and/or concrete actions to help build a culture of peace. In your view, why is this/are these a priority?

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Please PRINT clearly:

Name:
Street address:
Postal code:
Tel: Fax: E-mail:

Please return **by July 15, 1997** to
Voice of Women/Roundtable Follow-up Committee
736 Bathurst St., Toronto, ON M5S 2R4

As our time together in January was far too short
Let's hear your views! Let's hear your views!

Voice of Women

Since 1960 Canadian Voice of Women for Peace has joined women from across Canada to work together for peace. VOW's objectives are

- to unite women in concern for the future of the world;
- to help promote the mutual respect and cooperation among nations necessary for peaceful negotiations between world powers;
- to protest against war or the threat of war as the decisive method of exercising power;
- to appeal to all national leaders to cooperate in the alleviation of the causes of war by common action for the economic and social betterment of all; and
- to provide a means for women to exercise responsibility for the family of humankind.

VOW has organized and participated in countless activities and campaigns against nuclear weapons and nuclear proliferation, low-level military flying over Native lands, Canadian military exports, war toys and other issues of militarism. VOW also lobbies governments, networks with other peace and women's groups and attends international events. VOW is an accredited NGO to the United Nations Department of Public Information and was the Canadian lead group for peace at the Fourth World Conference on Women held in Beijing, China, 4-15 September, 1995.

VOW invites all women who share our goals to join with us in working for peace, justice and disarmament.

Contact: VOW National Office
736 Bathurst St.
Toronto, ON M5S 2R4
Ph: (416) 537-9343
Fx: (416) 531-6214